

From: Frapazoid 1.4
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/9/02 7:23pm
Subject: My opinion of the Microsoft settlement

Microsoft's preposed settlement of buying their own software for schools is absolutely insane, for many reasons.

1) If Microsoft buys their own software with the money, at full price, how are they being punished? Let's say they "spend" 100k dollars on WindowsXP. At 200\$ per copy, they are really only paying for the 3\$ manufacture cost, and the rest just goes back to them. So they are really only spending a 1.5% fraction of it. This applies to just about all of their software.

2) Buying Microsoft's own software only strengthens their monopoly by training millions of kids at schools in the use of Microsoft software. So when they someday decide to buy their own computers, they will get what they are used to; Microsoft software.

3) The simple fact that it's Microsoft who suggested this settlement should be very suspicious. Obviously a company will try to come up with a punishment that doesn't really work but seems bad.

4) A well known tactic of Microsoft is to pay people to send supportive EMails and mock flame-mails from fake Linux users. Anyone who claims to use Linux and is sending really moronic messages to this address is probably really a Microsoft supporter. Check their Email headers and you will see they are using Windows.

Here is my preposed solution.

Microsoft should spend 1\$ dollars on installing and support of competitor's software. That means Linux, StarOffice, possibly Macintosh, etc. The rule should be that whoever they buy software from must not be an ally; They must be a competitor. Also, Netscape is a must, in place of Internet Explorer. This would work better for the following reasons:

- 1) The money doesn't just go back to Microsoft. They actually have to do some spending, instead of just faking it.
- 2) It hurts the monopoly buy training people to use competitor's software and hardware rather than their own.
- 3) WindowsXP has high system requirements, so a good portion of the money will be spent on hardware. As a result, a smaller number of machines will be able to be updated, because of the higher cost. However, if something like Linux is used, hardware will not require as much improvement. Less upgrade cost means more computers to be upgraded.
- 4) Linux is far cheaper than Windows XP, which also means more systems will be upgraded. Even with support, RedHat Linux would only cost 60\$ per copy, where WindowsXP would be significantly more. Without the support, it would be about 5\$ per school for OS software.
- 5) This would be very supportive of Microsoft's competitors, thus causing much damage to their monopoly. Also, if Microsoft opposes this type of settlement, that means it will work as a punishment. After all, if the criminal is okay with the punishment, it's not a good one.
- 6) Most of Microsoft's competitors may be willing to give price cuts to help their reputation, which would allow even more systems to be updated with the billion dollars.

If you read this, please reply. You don't even need to say anything, just hit reply and send without typing anything. I would just like to be aware of whether these messages are being read or not.